

Pentagon Memorial Competition Stage One Board Text

Entry # 1276

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 brought into being a new world of social relationships and groups consisting of the commemorated community of the dead and a community of family members, survivors, and rescuers.

In respect to the family statement that accompanied the brief for this design competition, "this memorial intends to bring an understanding that all of us have paid severely and that the victims' deaths have ended the ripple effect of their lives touching many others through the universe: their loss has created an incalculable emptiness."

Consisting of an object located within a clearing of a dense grove of 184 trees, this memorial also seeks to recognize that "one aspect of a nationwide bereaved community is the sense of being 'together' with millions of others in that expressions of mourning bypass or transcend the many ways in which people are divided-by religion, ideology, class, region, race, or gender."

The object in the clearing represents the artifact of subtractive operations totaling the number of victims of the Pentagon attack. As the operands subtract from the object they also subtract from each other. The resulting voids in the object serve to remind us of the immeasurable loss of life experienced on 9/11. The interaction between the operands results in unique subtractive forms representative of the inevitable convergence of personal loss experienced by the victim's families and our nation.

Whereas a single memorial remains on the West lawn of the Pentagon, it is intended that the operands will be sent to each victim's family or hometown, in effect, distributing 184 individual memorials across the globe.